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# The Call to Go

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## The Call to Go

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the good news!' — Romans 10:15 ESV

"I've always felt it's important to serve," says Emily Olakowski, a junior at Andrews University. Emily is a student missionary on the island of Ebeye where she teaches second grade to nearly 30 students. The mile-long, half-mile-wide island is the last place Emily ever thought she would serve.



Emily Olakowski

At the beginning of the school year, Emily visited Andrews' Campus Ministries office to explore mission opportunities. She always knew she wanted to be a missionary, just like her grandparents, mother and sister. Her convictions grew stronger when she was baptized in 2008.

"My heart was convicted, and I felt the call to go. It was unsettling to know that the world I live in doesn't know about the Calvary I cling to," she says. "That was a big thing."

Emily prayerfully looked through the list of options while talking with a ministry leader at Campus Ministries. She realized Ebeye was in need of teachers, and noticed how often the island appeared in her searches and its great need for missionaries that very year.

"I really didn't want to go to the island at first! I wanted to go to a vacation spot," laughs Emily. "But I felt convicted, like God was saying 'Go, and I will reward you and you will grow so much in me.'"

After talking with her advisors, family and God, Emily decided to go to Ebeye as a teacher and assistant for second semester. She currently serves there with another Andrews graduate.

In the past, Emily has been on short-term mission trips where she built churches, painted schools and was involved in worship services. She's also a spiritual leader at Andrews, where she leads song services and teaches at Refresh Sabbath school.

Emily believes God is calling students and young adults to be missionaries wherever they are. "Whether it be here in America, or in a foreign country, if you have an opportunity to reach people, please take it. ... With God, you never know what jobs He has up His sleeves for His workers, but you know that He will be working right there next to you."

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, and she is a physical therapy major at Andrews University.

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